

The Season of Lent in St. John's Parish

Mass for Lent

Mass is celebrated at 8.00am Monday to Friday and at 10.30am Monday to Saturday. You might consider joining us this week.

Growing in Friendship with God this Lent

Fr. Paul will present a Lenten Meditation Series in St. John's Church on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of Lent this year. This will be followed up with a Lenten Penance Day during Holy Week. We encourage all to come along and grow our friendship with God during this Holy Season. First session at 7.30pm on this Wednesday, 25th February. All welcome.

The Rosary for Lent

Parishioners gather in St. John's Church at 10.10am and 3.00pm each day to recite the Rosary. The Medjugorje Youth Group lead the Rosary in St. John's at 7.00pm each Friday. Please join us in reciting the Rosary for Lent.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross have a rich history dating back to the early pilgrims who retraced Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem. We invite you to join fellow parishioners as we meditate on these sacred events, allowing this spiritual exercise to transform our hearts and draw us closer to the heart of Jesus. Come to St. John's Church at 7.30pm on the Fridays of Lent.

Morning Prayer for Lent

We warmly invite you to begin each weekday during Lent by joining us for Morning Prayer (Lauds) at St. John's Church at 7.40am every morning. This ancient prayer of the Church is a beautiful way to dedicate your day to God, offering praise and thanksgiving as the sun rises.

Drop into Church for Quiet Prayer

Feel free to drop into any of our parish churches for a few minutes of quite personal prayer.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on next Wednesday, 25th February. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month.

The Pope's Monthly Intention for February
For children with incurable diseases: We pray for children suffering from incurable diseases.

St Patrick's Brass and Reed Band

Next Sunday we welcome St Patrick's Brass and Reed Band who will provide the Sacred Music at the 11.30am Mass in St John's.

Epilepsy Ireland

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. www.epilepsy.ie. Purple Day or Epilepsy Awareness Day is Thursday, 26th March.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohns@ossory.ie **Website:** www.stjohnskilkenny.com

Office: 056 772 1072; **Secretary:** Áine Butler; **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline: Thursdays 12.00 noon

SVP Help Line: 051 350 725

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769 Fr Tom O'Toole: 087 224 0787

Fr. Paul Kasu 087 390 5060 Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan;
Fr. Paul Kasu; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; Iris O'Flynn; Fr Tom O'Toole; Karena Phelan.**

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Fintan Fanning, 085 802 1633 - dlp@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

Parish Of Saint John The Evangelist

incorporating | St John's | Dunmore | Johnswell | church areas

MASS TIMES

St John's - Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil); **Sunday:** 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

Holy Days: 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

Weekdays: 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only). **Adoration:** Wednesdays at 11.00am.

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

**St. John's Parish, St. Mary's Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Canice's Parish
together form the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area**

First Sunday of Lent - 22nd February 2026

Parish Confirmations 2026

Next Friday - 11.00am - St. John's Church

The Sacrament of Confirmation for the 'Class of 2026' will take place in St John's Church on next Friday morning at 11.00am. The priests of the parish will administer the sacrament. This year we have 54 candidates for Confirmation. Please pray for them and their families.

Please note that there will be no 10.30am Mass on Friday morning

Ossory Adult Faith Development Lenten Program 2026

Ossory Faith Development offers a number of programmes to help us reflect on our faith and practice during the Season of Lent.

Reflecting on the Search for a Synodal Church: The Church throughout the world and here in Ireland has been on a synodal journey. What does this mean? In essence it means we are trying to ensure that the voice of all in our Church is heard. We have tried to do this in Ossory, it has not always been achieved. Fr Delcan Hurley, Chairperson of the National Synodal Team, leads us in a reflection on where we are on this journey and where we intend to go.

Location: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Date: Monday, 2nd March at 7.00pm

Rising to the Challenge: Confronting Poverty and Injustice in Our Time: The world in which we live is hurting on many levels. We are very aware of the many inequalities that exist. But does this awareness, thanks to the marvels of modern media, lead to action? How is it that there are those who have help and those who don't. Our faith demands that we care for those who are weaker - what is the Irish Church doing? Join us as Seán Farrell, CEO of Trócaire, leads us in a reflection on the work of Trócaire in our world today confronting poverty and injustice.

Location: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Date: Monday, 9th March at 7.00pm.

Taizé Youth Night: Praying with the next generation is for us all a real reason to hope - why not join with us, then, for a special Taizé Prayer Service of Hope during this Lent. We will come together with those who are preparing to travel to Taizé from our diocese late in the Summer - bringing our prayer to this special place. Come and experience the serene atmosphere of Taizé prayer, a time of song, silence, and hope - all are welcome.

Location: St. Mary's Cathedral

Date: Friday, 13th March at 7.00pm.

Lent Tweets: Follow @OssoryDiocese for a simple thought each day during this Lenten Season. Have your timeline prompt you to pause each day to be reminded of our Lenten journey.

Online Resources: Further online resources for Lent are available at www.ossory.ie.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Nicola Tynan (nee O'Brien) Ballyfoyle. Requiem Mass on Monday at 11.30am in St. Brendan's Church, Muckalee. Funeral to Newlands Cross Crematorium, Service at 2.30pm.

Margaret Doran, Carlow
David DeLoughry, Ayrfield
Dick Cogan, Glendine Court
Seamus Woods, Cavan

Brian Gilliard, Newpark Close
Ann Ward (nee Curran), Lucan, Dublin
Canon John Piert, Dublin & John's Quay
John G. Lanigan, Glendine Road
David Gay, Bennettsbridge

Months Mind: Baby Thomas Walsh (7.00pm).

Anniversaries: Noel Murphy; Bill Walsh; Joey & Edward (Ned) Lawless (6.00pm); William Powell (8.00am); Margaret Ryan; Josephine Burke; Kitty & Jim Rice; Paddy Brennan (11.00am); Chris Harding; John Bergin (11.30am); Andy O'Driscoll; Jimmy Leahy; Jim Cody; Bridie O'Shaughnessy; John & Peter O'Rourke; Michael Brennan; Molly Cunningham; John Dinneen; Martin Coogan; Margaret Rowe; Catherine Neary; Angela Kilusungu; Maura Delaney; Paddy Barry; Liam Reidy; Martin Dermody; Jimmy Gahan; Tony Comerford; Maura Tyrell.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin
8.00am Niamh Carroll
10.00am Teresa Dowling
11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell
7.00pm Joan Galwey



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€850.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	121	291.00
8.00am St. John's	80	226.00
10.00am Johnswell	xx	67.00
11.00am Dunmore	86	163.00
11.30am St. John's	196	348.00
7.00pm St. John's	96	162.00
	579	€1,257.00

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place this weekend, 21st and 22nd February. A sincere thank you for all your donations. Contact: 051 350 725.

St. John's Community Games

Please support our annual church gate collection on next weekend, 28th February and 1st March. Collections will be taken up at St. John's, Dunmore and Johnswell Churches.

Medjugorje Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

The Medjugorje Youth Group wish to thank the local businesses and parishioners who supported their cake sale and coffee morning last weekend. €772 was raised.

Pope Leo XIV Lenten Message

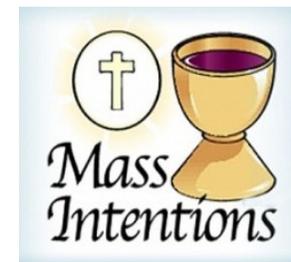
"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

Community Connect Drive & Drop - Donate to Help Families in Need!

Kilkenny Presbyterian Church, New Road is hosting a 'Drive & Drop' event in the Presbyterian Church Car Park on Saturday, 7th March from 11.00am to 1.00pm. New items: nappies size 1 to 6, baby wipes, nappy sacks, baby wash/shampoo/cream/sponges/cotton wool; packs of baby grows and vests (newborn to 6 months), hooded towels, baby blankets, baby bibs, baby bottles. www.communityconnect.ie/

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 23rd February 2026

Monday:	8.00am	John & Peter O'Rourke
Tuesday:	10.30am	Michael Brennan
Wednesday:	10.30am	Molly Cunningham
	7.30pm	Reflection Service
Thursday:	8.00am	John Dinneen
	10.30am	Martin Coogan
Friday:	11.00am	Parish Confirmations
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday:	6.00pm	Maura Lanigan
		Esther & Joe Maher
		MM Helena Groves
Sunday:	11.30am	Dolores Dowling & Christina O'Connor
		Seamus, Mary & Ann Burke
		Jim Kealy



May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Trócaire 2026

Trócaire Boxes available in the church this weekend for your household. Please use them to support the work of Trócaire worldwide. The Trócaire theme this year is "Strength and Honour are her Clothing" (Proverbs 31:25) and we are introduced to a three-generation family in rural Rwanda, led by Uwamahoro, a young mother supporting her daughter, niece and elderly mother. Through their story, we are invited to reflect on the Gospel call to justice, resilience and care for our common home and our common family. More information on www.trocaire.org.



World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, 6th March in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy at 7.30pm. This year's theme is: 'I Will Give You Rest: Come'. The service is prepared by the Nigerian WDP Committee. All are very welcome.



Totus Tuus 2026 Fatima Pilgrimage

The Totus Tuus annual pilgrimage to Fatima will take place from 28th August to 4th September 2026. Learn about the Fatima Message, the Rosary, the First Saturdays, the lives of the three visionaries, and visit the tomb and home of Blessed Alexandrina Da Costa, who lived solely on the Eucharist for 13 years. The cost is €915 which includes, flights, half board accommodation, airport transfers, day trip to Balasar, trip to Valinhos and Adjustrel, trip to the Irish Dominican Sisters' Convent. There are places available to fly from Cork Airport, and also from Dublin Airport. Limited places are available. For more information call Damien on 087 20 49 048.

Thought for the Week

Charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship. St John Chrysostom vehemently denounced excessive wealth connected with indifference for the poor. 'It is very cold, and the poor man lies in rags, dying, freezing, shivering, with an appearance and clothing that should move you. You often adorn an unfeeling corpse, which no longer understands honour, with many varied and gilded garments. Yet you despise the one who feels pain, who is torn apart, tortured, tormented by hunger and cold.' This profound sense of social justice leads him to affirm that 'not giving to the poor is stealing from them, defrauding them of their lives, because what we have belongs to them.'

(Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te, Love for the Poor.*)

Come, watch one hour with me...

Jesus invites us to come and sit before the Blessed Sacrament for a while. Exposition at St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm every Wednesday.